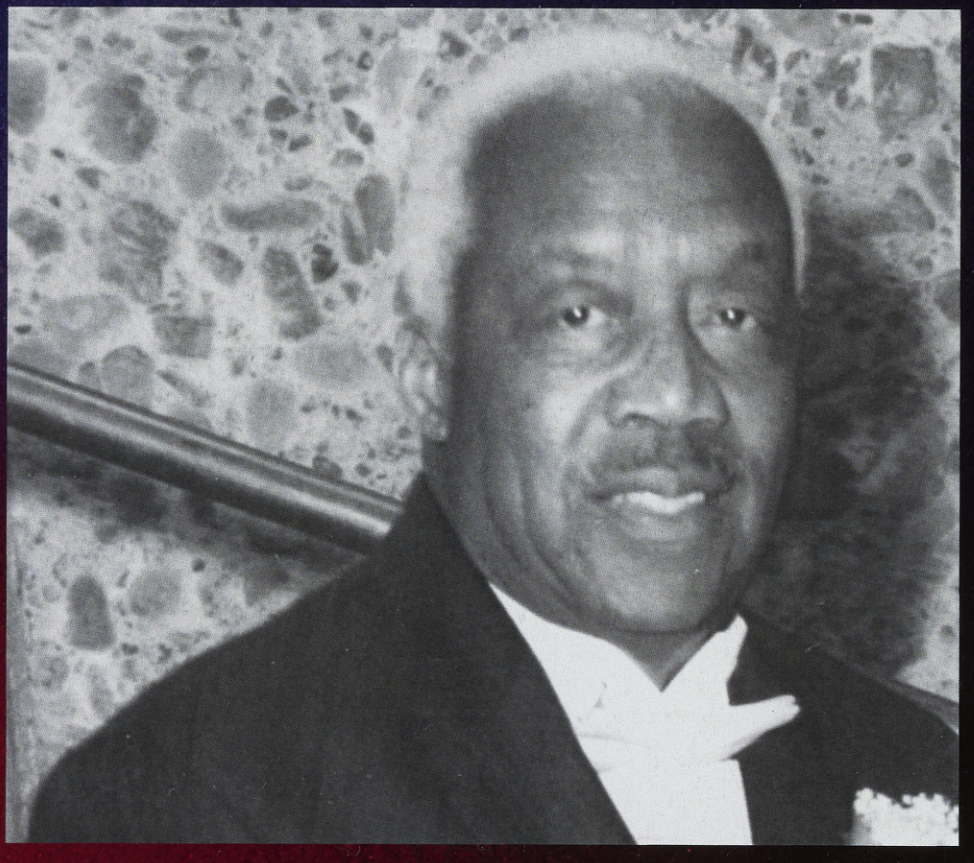
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF

ELIJAH GREEN "PUMPSIE"

OCTOBER 27, 1933 - JULY 17, 2019



BEEBE MEMORIAL CATHEDRAL
3900 TELEGRAPH AVENUE
OAKLAND, CA 94609

"Job was speaking about waiting in the grave until the time came for God to remember him. He said to Jehovah, You will call, and I myself shall answer you. For the work of your hands you will have a yearning."

Job 14:13-15

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Al Davis
Reggie Davis
Jerry Dixon
Aaron Isom
Rochon Mungo
Johnny Presley
Kadar Pinn
Kevin Suddeth

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Nathaniel Bates
Rudolph Brooks
Charles Freeman
Credell Green
Cornell Green
Eddie Joe Green
JJ Guinn

Sylvester Harper
Arif Kharib

Reverend Derek Mungo
Tommy Munoz
Salvador Murello
Ted Nelson
Michael Poe
Clemart Presley
Willie Reed

Weldon Rucker
Rodney Williams

The Green Family wishes to thank all of those who called, prayed with us, offered their services and sent cards. Special thanks to Lenora Poe, who sponsored the pianist and was with us from day one. Our thanks to Julie McQuire for her kind deed and comforting words. The CELT Facebook group for the delicious dinners. And to all who participated in the program.

*In lieu of a flower or gift donation, the Green family requests that a donation be made to St. Jude's Research Hospital.

Order of Service

Prelude
"Soon and Very Soon" – Adam Ivey

Processionall
Bishop Aaron Ward

Scripture/Prayer
Reverend Robert McKnight

Lord's Prayer
Natre Burks

Music Selection Medley of Hymns
Adam Ivey

Reading of the Obituary
Faith Battles

Music Selection
"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"– Natre Burks

Acknowledgement/Proclamation: City of Richmond – Pamela Brooks
FRIEND'S SPEAK: Berkeley Unified – Thelette Bennet
City of Berkeley – Weldon Rucker
Representative Boston Red Sox – Gordon Edes
Video: Pumpsie's Baseball Career with Boston Red Sox
Granddaughter – Brittanny Green
Daughter – Keisha Green

Music Selection
"Going Home" – Adam Ivey

Eulogy
Bishop Aaron Ward

Processional
"Going Up Yonder" – Adam Ivey

Internment - Sunset View Cemetery 101 Colusa Ave. El Cerrito, CA 94530

Immediately following the internment, please join the family for a repast in the church's social hall.

Obituary

Elijah "Pumpsie" Green was born October 27, 1933 in Boley, Oklahoma to Elijah and Gladys Green. Pumpsie and his family migrated to California in 1942, settling in Richmond, California. Pumpsie was the oldest of 5 boys. All were athletes. Pumpsie's brother Credell played 1 year with the Green Bay Packers. His brother Cornell was a star Safety with the Dallas Cowboys from 1962-1975. At El Cerrito High School, Pumpsie was an all around athlete. Baseball was his passion. In high school, he excelled in baseball, basketball and football. At Contra Costa Junior College in Richmond, he was the baseball teams infielder.

In 1952, Pumpsie met Marie Presley (he called her Tag) at Contra Costa Community College. They were instantly attracted to one another and soon became an item. In the spring of 1955, Pumpsie proposed to Marie. The couple had plans to marry in the fall of 1956, however Pumpsie was offered an opportunity to play Winter Ball, and he took this paid opportunity. Professional baseball did not provide a comfortable living for African American players in those days. The couple decided to get married and have a formal celebration at a later date. They married on March 8, 1957. They were soon blessed with a son Jerry, and years later, a daughter Keisha (Heidi).

Pumpsie had a long career playing baseball. From 1954-1955, Pumpsie played with several minor league teams, including the Oakland Oaks, Stockton Ports and the San Francisco Seals. All of these teams were located in California. From 1958-1960 he played with the Winter League Baseball teams in Central America. From 1956-1965, Pumpsie played with the Boston Red Sox's minor and major league teams as an infielder.

Pumpsie was the first African American to play with the Boston Red Sox's professional baseball team. Much has been said, Pumpsie was a reluctant hero. In his own words, "I do not think of myself as another Jackie Robinson, as a pioneer with the Red Sox. I just wanted to make the team. As long as I had that chance, I was going to try and do the best I could. It got to be sort of tiring when the media kept asking me questions about being the first black on the Red Sox and what it meant to me, and what was my opinion as to why Boston had never had a black player." In June 1955, the Boston Red Sox purchased Pumpsie's contract from the Stockton Ports. The Red Sox wanted to send him to play in the South. Pumpsie stated, "We were in first place, and having a great year, when one day, my manager Roy Partee told me, 'hey Pumps, the Red Sox bought your contract. You are going to their organization in Montgomery Alabama.' I did not want to go south. I managed to finish out the season with the Stockton Ports. I hit about 300 and drove in about 80 something runs that season." After leaving the Red Sox, Pumpsie was traded to the New York Mets. He retired from baseball due to an injury.

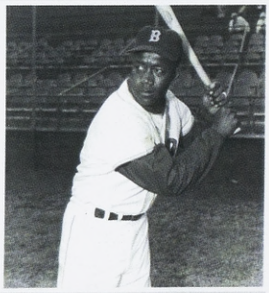
Retiring from baseball in 1965, Pumpsie gained employment with the Berkeley Unified School District as a baseball coach and student supervisor. He was employed with Berkeley for 31 years. Pumpsie also worked part time with the City of Berkeley Parks & Recreation for many years. After retirement, Pumpsie and Marie made frequent trips back East as invited guests. The most memorable occasion was the celebration of Jackie Robinson's 50th Anniversary. He was asked to assist Jackie Robinson's daughter, Sharon, in throwing out the first pitch at Fenway Park in Boston. Pumpsie was frequently sought after to participate in media events, college and university forums. He was also frequently called on to participate in community forums and events, especially during Black History month. And in 54 years, he never stopped receiving fan mail.

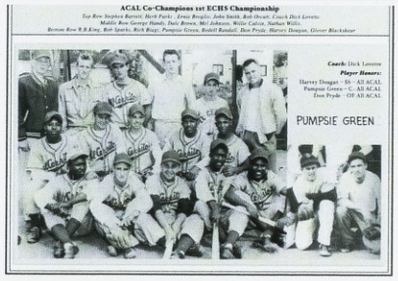
Pumpsie received many awards, certificates, honors and proclamations. A few are: 1959 First Annual Rookie All Star Team Award as a 2nd baseman; Proclamations from the City of Richmond 1997 and 2019; Richmond Unified School District for Exemplary Model of Success for Students; 1951-1952 El Cerrito High School Hall of Fame – Varsity Baseball Team. Pumpsie was enshrined in Oakland, CA along with 11 other athletes in the Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame. 2018 Pumpsie's debut on the Boston Red Sox was recognized by the Red Sox Hall of Fame as the Most Memorable Moment.

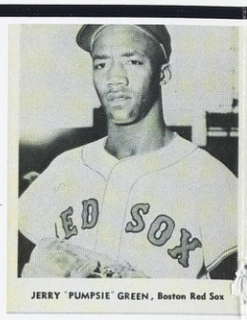
Pumpsie was a family man by all accounts. He wanted nothing more than having his family over for a hearty barbeque dinner. Up until recently, he took over the job as main cook. He has since turned the job over to the younger family members, but still claims the title of the best chef. His way of relaxing was to sit in his recliner and watch classic Westerns and tease his great grandsons. They are still running downstairs to the family room expecting to see Pumpsie. WE LOVE PUMPSIE BECAUSE HE LOVES US.

In the 1960's, Pumpsie and Marie purchased land in El Cerrito that had a magnificent view. And in 1974, they built their home. Pumpsie enjoyed the view of the Bay Area for 42 years, and was very proud of this accomplishment that he and Marie worked on together.

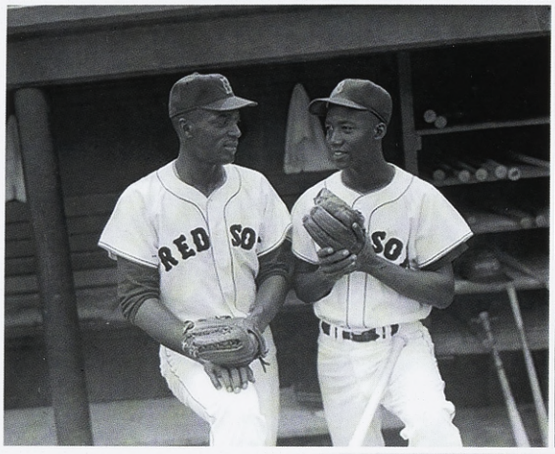
Pumpsie was preceded in death by his son Jerry Green, his parents, Gladys and Elijah, his brother Travis and wife Carolyn, his nephew, Rochon Mungo (Jackie) and his sister in law Betty (Cornell). Pumpsie leaves to mourn his wife Marie, his daughter Keisha, two granddaughters, Brittanny Pinn (Kadar) and Juanita Davis; four great grandsons, Jaylyn, Jayce, Judah and Alex; three brothers, Credell (Dorothy), Cornell, and Eddie Joe (Carlene); Sister in law, Ethel Teamer, Brother in law Clemart Presley, and a host of nieces and nephews.

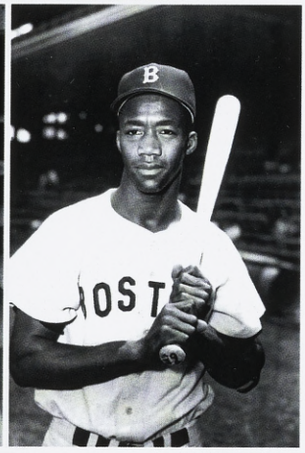



ACAL Co-Champions 1st ECHS Championship
Coach: Dick Lassiter
Player Honors:
Harvey Dungan – SS – All ACAL
Pumpsie Green – C- All ACAL
Don Pryde – OF All ACAL
PUMPSIE GREEN



JERRY "PUMPSIE" GREEN, Boston Red Sox





Athletic Hall of Fame

Induction Class of 2009

The Green Family

Elijah "Pumpsie" Green, 1952

1949, 1950, 1951 Basketball
1949, 1950, 1951 Baseball
1950, 1951 – All ACAL Baseball
1951 Baseball Co-Champs, 1st ECHS Championship Team
1951 Baseball East vs. West All-Star Game
1963Baseball – Major Leagues
First African American to play for Boston Red Sox
1959-1962 Boston
1965 New York Mets

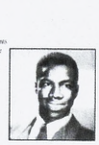
Travis Green, 1956

1955, 1956 Baseball
1955, 1956 League Champions Baseball
1956 – Basketball
1956 Basketball League Champs
Basketball #1 Team in State

El Cerrito High School Graduates

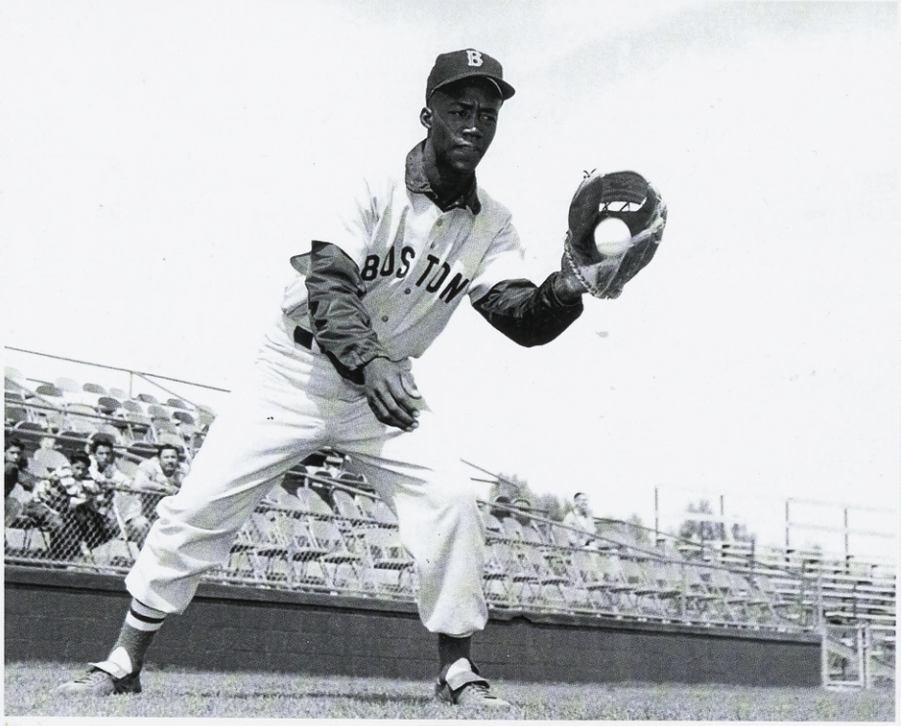
Credell Green, 1953

1952 – All ACAL Football
1952 – Gained 1,120 yards – Scored 114 points
1953, 1954 – All Big 7 Contra Costa College
1954 – All Nor Cal JC
1954 – 2nd Team JC All-American Football
University of Washington
Drafted Green Bay Packers



Cornell Green, 1957

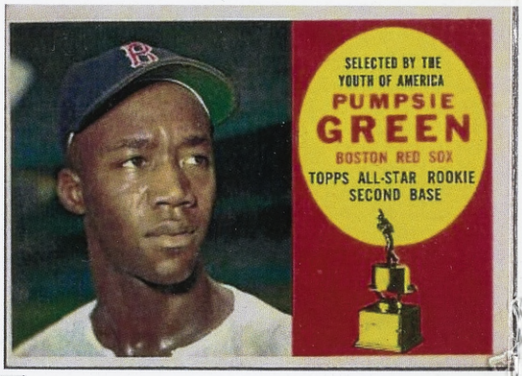
1956 Football
1955, 1956, 1957 Basketball
1956-1957 – All ACAL
1956-1957 All Northern California
1957 – All State
1957 – High School All-American
League Record Total Points (368)
1956 – All Tourney – TDC
1956 – All Tourney – Gridley
1958 All State – Contra Costa College
1961 – 3rd Team All America – Utah State
1962-1974 – NFL Dallas Cowboys
1966-1967 – All NFL
1971 – All Pro



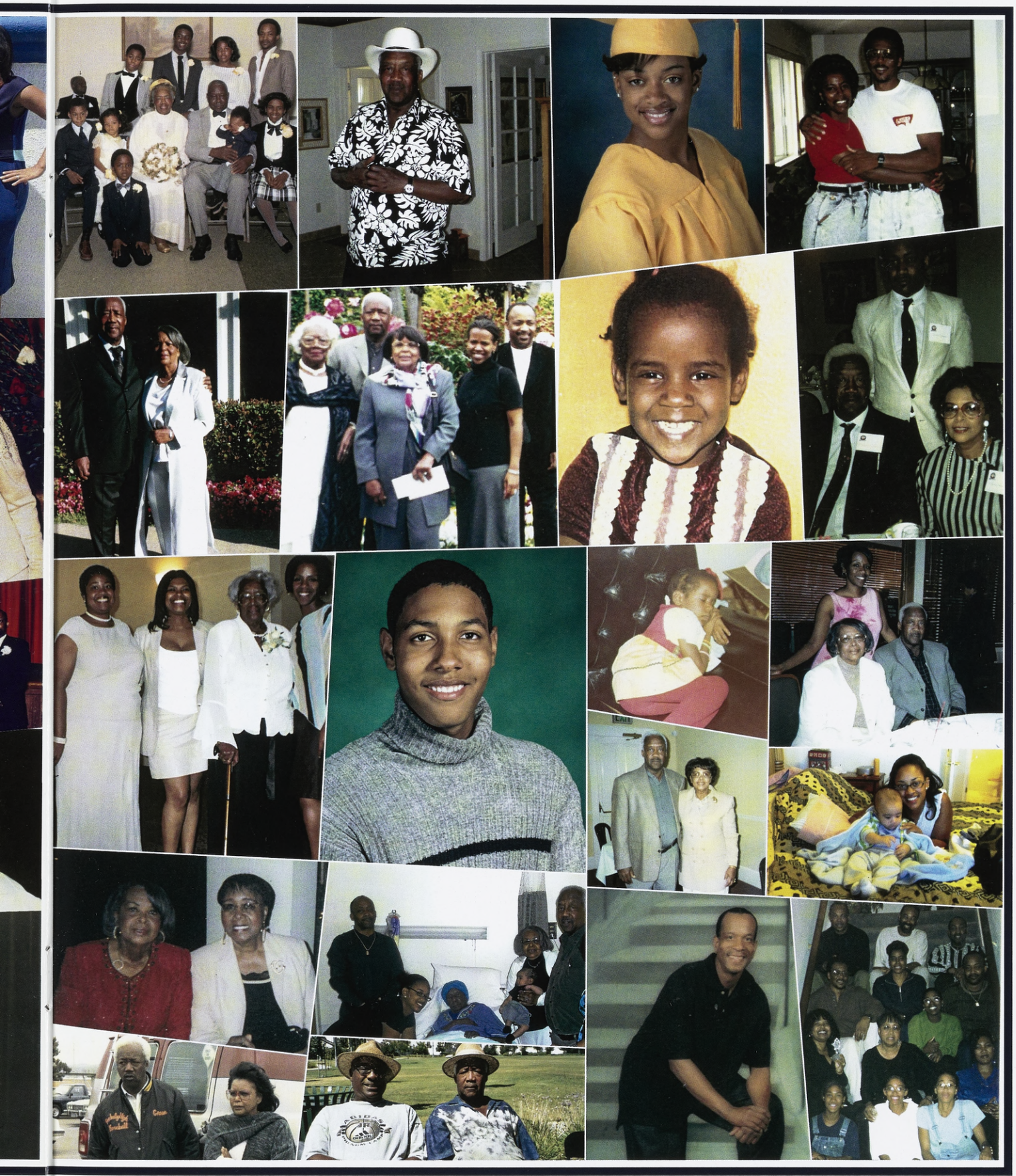
1958 MILLERS

BACK ROW

FRONT ROW



REDSOX



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Love Notes

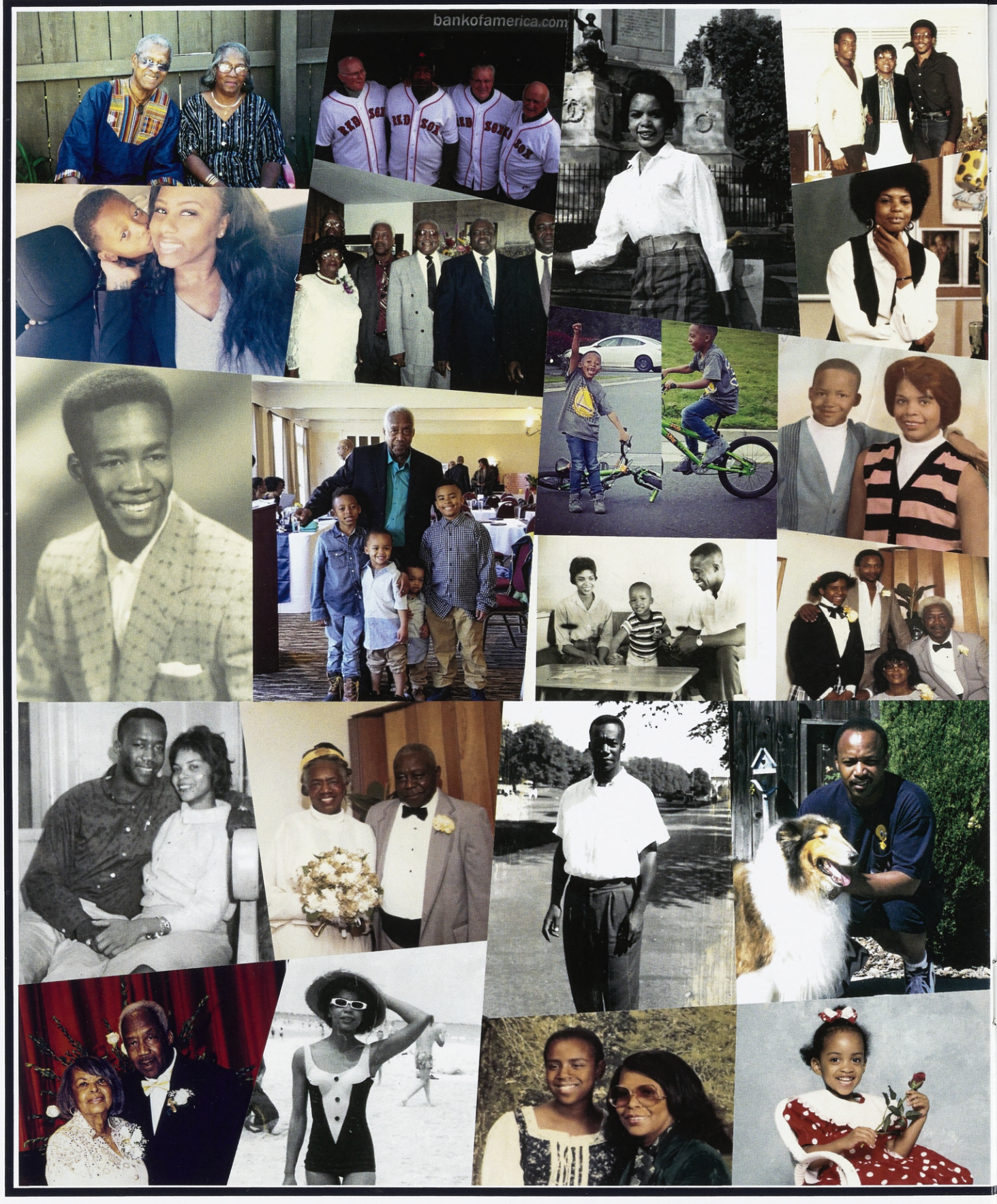
WRITTEN FOR OUR 40TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Love Note to My Wife

Time has taught that no matter what, we will always be together. We've been through so much and know each other so well-- There's a special bond between us that I don't think most people are lucky enough to find. We laugh together, talk to each other, really listen to what is said. We try to understand how the other feels. And even when we fuss and fight, I know everything will be okay because we care so deeply about each other. It's true that you and I have weathered some storms, and life being what it is, we'll probably face some more. But when they're all over, I know deep down, our commitment to one another will still be there.... and that the love we have in our hearts will last forever. ~Pumpsie

Love Note to My Husband

No one else could understand and reassure me the way you do, or make me feel so alive, so aware of all the joys and possibilities each day has to offer. No one else could give so freely, or see me so clearly, or accept me so totally... No one else but you could share my heart, my life, my love so completely-- Now we have reached a point in our relationship where we realize what it is that makes a marriage work-- the trust and sense of security that come from loving commitment, the value of communication, the warmth of deep and honest sharing. These are some of the things that make our marriage so wonderful, and they're the reasons I love you more and more as time goes by-- because you are my loving partner, my dear friend, the man I'd marry all over again. ~Marie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THE GREEN FAMILY
WOULD LIKE TO THANK

Chapel of the Chimes
4499 Piedmont Avenue
Oakland, CA 94611

Beebe Memorial Cathedral
3900 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609

Sunset View Cemetery
101 Colusa Avenue
El Cerrito, CA 94530